

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph that begins on Page 17, line 14 and carries over to Page 18, line 6 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- If the provisioning interface is implemented as an extension of the deployment interface, then the interface specification for a particular web service preferably specifies its operations in a provisioning portType element within a deployment interface definition. For example, the deployment interface specification 300 in Fig. 3A may be extended to include a provisioning deployment portType element. Referring briefly now to Figs. 5A through 5E, the sample message specifications illustrated Figs. 5A through 5C may be added to other messages defined in a deployment specification (which are shown at element 320 of Fig. 3A) when using this approach, and an additional portType element such as that illustrated in Figs. 5D and 5E may be specified along with the portType 330 for deployment operations. Alternatively, a separate WSDL document may be provided specifically for provisioning, where this separate document has its own <types> element, <schema> element, and so forth. In this alternative, the WSDL document's <definitions> element may be comprised of provisioning messages and operations such as those illustrated in the interface specification of Figs. 5A through 5E. --

Please replace the paragraph on Page 34, lines 13 - 17 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- While the preferred embodiments of the present invention have been described, additional variations and modifications in those embodiments may occur to those skilled in the art once they learn of the basic inventive concepts. Therefore, it is intended that the appended claims

shall be construed to include ~~[[both]]~~ the preferred ~~embodiment~~ embodiments and all such variations and modifications as fall within the spirit and scope of the invention. --